Remarks

Claims 13-42 and 49-81 were currently pending in this application. With this response, Applicant has amended claims 18, 23, 24, 26-29, 32, 34-37, 54 and 59-60. In addition, Applicant has canceled claims 64-81 without prejudice, disavowal or disclaimer. Thus, claims 18-37 and 54-63 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 64-69 were objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon rejected base claims. However, the Examiner stated that Claims 64-69 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their respective base claims. Applicant has taken the Examiner's advice and rewritten Claim 18 (the base claim) to include the limitation of Claim 64; rewritten Claim 23 (the base claim) to include the limitation of Claim 65; rewritten Claim 29 (the base claim) to include the limitation of Claim 66; rewritten Claim 32 (the base claim) to include the limitation of Claim 67; rewritten Claim 35 (the base claim) to include the limitation of Claim 68; and rewritten Claim 54 (the base claim) to include the limitation of Claim 69.

None of Applicant's amendments or cancellations are to be construed as dedicating any such subject matter to the public, and Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any such subject matter in this or a related patent application. The foregoing amendments are made solely to expedite prosecution.

With entry of the above amendment and in view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 18-37 and 54-63 are in condition for allowance, and that all of the objections and rejections in the Office Action dated February 23, 2005 have been overcome and should be withdrawn. Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned with any questions or to otherwise expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 25, 2005

Joseph A. Mahoney

Reg. No. 38,956

MAYER, BROWN, ROWE & MAW LLP

P.O. Box 2828

Chicago, Illinois 60690-2828

Tel.: 312-701-8979

Fax: 312-706-8530

Customer No. 26565